above and below the Prime Lending Rate (PLR) charged by the commercial banks. Subsequently, public sector banks have been advised to reduce their lending rate for the agriculture sector to a single digit of not more than 9% per annum on loans upto a ceiling of Rs. 50,000/-.

**Seeds Regulation Act**

2092. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that a faulty provision in the Seeds Regulation Act, 1977 has affected the interests of the farmers throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the farmers to amend the Act suitably; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No such Seeds Regulation Act, 1997 has been enacted.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Agricultural production**

2093. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any policy for increasing the Agricultural production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether agricultural produce is being exported/imported;

(d) if so, the item-wise details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to ban the imports of agricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The National Agriculture Policy was formulated in the year 2000. It aims to attain a growth rate in excess of 4% per annum in agriculture sector. In order to achieve the stated objectives, Government is implementing several schemes to boost the production and productivity of various crops. Important schemes are given in the enclosed statement-I (See below).

(c) and (d) A statement showing item wise details of export and import of agricultural products during the periods from April, 2001 to February, 2002 and April, 2002 to February, 2003 is enclosed as statement-II. (See below).

(e) Subsequent to the removal of quantitative restrictions, the imports of agricultural commodities are free, subject to payment of applicable customs duties. However, to protect the interest of domestic farmers, the Government has been monitoring the import of agricultural commodities and takes action to regulate imports. The import duties are increased as and when considered necessary.

***Statement-I***

*List of Important Schemes*

(i) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice).

(ii) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat).

(iii) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals).

(iv) Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems (SUBACS).

(v) Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP).

(vi) Technology Mission on Cotton.

(vii) On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India.

(viii) Macro-management Scheme in Agriculture.

(ix) National Agriculture Insurance Scheme.

(x) Technology Mission on Oilseeds, pulses and Maize.

(xi) Watershed Development Programmes.

(xii) Integrated Pest Management.

(xiii) Technology Mission on Horticulture in North East, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu & Kashmir.

(xiv) Agri-clinic and Agri-business Centre Schemes.

***Statement-II***

*Quantity and value of export of Agricultural products during the period April 2001-Feb, 2002 vis-a-vis April, 2002, Feb., 2003.*

Quantity : In '000 Tons
Value : Rs. in Crore

| Sl. No. | Commodity | April 2001 Feb. 2002 | | April 2002 Feb 2003(P) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Quantity | Value | Quantity | Value |
| 1. | Pulses | 147.86 | 340.26 | 136.53 | 317.44 |
| 2. | Rice Basmati | 567.13 | 1598.64 | 516.02 | 1470.84 |
| 3. | Rice (Other than Basmati) | 1253.19 | 1114.53 | 3804.47 | 3425.7 |
| 4. | Wheat | 2420.21 | 1219.52 | 3343.54 | 1583.03 |
| 5. | Other Cereals | 139.92 | 102.97 | 97.07 | 81.57 |
| | Total | | 4375.92 | | 6678.28 |
| 6. | Tea | 170.00 | 1628.96 | 165.73 | 1503.74 |
| 7. | Coffee | 151.04 | 975.39 | 161..41 | 859.52 |
| 8. | Tobacco Unmfd. | 71.90 | 482.17 | 86.85 | 610.19 |
| 9. | Tobacco Mfd. | 12.23 | 205.17 | 16.51 | 242.15 |
| 10. | Dairy Products | — | 183.11 | — | 148.97 |
| 11. | Floriculture Products | — | 109.42 | — | 158.15 |

| Sl. No. | Commodity | April 2001 Quantity | Feb. 2002 Value | April 2002 Quantity | Feb 2003(P) Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12. | Spices | 211.98 | 1358.26 | 241.33 | 1471.52 |
| 13. | Cashew nut Sheel Liquid | 1.74 | 4.79 | 6.00 | 8.28 |
| 14. | Cashew | 91.25 | 1662.14 | 117.32 | 1878.40 |
| 15. | Sesame Seeds | 206.87 | 530.22 | 98.46 | 303.03 |
| 16. | Niger Seeds | 19.20 | 42.09 | 31.61 | 66.05 |
| 17. | Groundnut | 104.87 | 233.36 | 58.23 | 148.53 |
| 18. | Guergam Meal | 105.82 | 365.58 | 96.47 | 407.82 |
| 19. | Oil Meals | 2426.95 | 1962.42 | 1477.89 | 1261.38 |
| 20. | Caslor Oil | 200.43 | 588.15 | 136.32 | 469.93 |
| 21. | Shellac | 5.41 | 69.35 | 5.43 | 82.88 |
| 22. | Sugar | 1357.73 | 1615.12 | 1266.96 | 1370.68 |
| 23. | Mollases | 208.03 | 51.02 | 197.44 | 40.98 |
| 24. | Fruits/Vegetables Seeds | 4.14 | 57.13 | 6.10 | 84.89 |
| 25. | Fresh Fruits | — | 334.79 | — | 345.20 |
| 26. | Fresh Vegetables | — | 511.82 | — | 555.89 |
| 27. | Processed Vegetables | — | 176.31 | — | 220.58 |
| 28. | Processed Fruits & Juices | — | 482.66 | — | 515.54 |
| 29. | Miscellaneous Processed Items | — | 589.68 | — | 740.72 |
| 30. | Meat & Preparations | — | 1090.35 | — | 1262.12 |
| 31. | Marine Products | 432.22 | 5447.99 | 473.80 | 6200.70 |
| 32. | Cotton Raw Incld. Waste | 6.20 | 28.63 | 10.93 | 40.71 |
| 33. | Jute Hessian | 48.59 | 175.09 | 91.99 | 322.71 |
| 34. | Poultry Products | — | 129.45 | — | 150.51 |
| 35. | Paper/Wood Products | — | 1372.33 | — | 1680.35 |
| | Total Agricultural Exports | — | 26838.87 | — | 30030.40 |
| | Total National Exports | 188598.15 | | | 227128.08 |
| | % Share of Agricultural Exports in | | | | |
| | National Exports | | 14.23 | | 13.22 |

P: Provisional
Source: DGCIS Ministry of Commerce, Calcutta

Quantity : In '000 Tons
Value : Rs. in Crore

| Sl. No. | Commodity | April 2001 Quantity | Feb. 2002 Value | April 2002 Quantity | Feb 2003(P) Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Pulses | 2083.11 | 2957.25 | 1729.01 | 2345.19 |
| 2. | Wheat | 1.35 | 0.84 | 0.03 | 0.01 |
| 3. | Rice | 0.06 | 0.07 | 0.87 | 1.08 |
| 4. | Other Cereal | 4.57 | 3.41 | 0.88 | 0.49 |
| 5. | Cereal Preparation | 34.42 | 79.24 | 47.14 | 107.06 |
| 6. | Milk & Cream | 1.12 | 8.09 | 1.01 | 8.46 |
| 7. | Cashew Nuts | 158.81 | 422.25 | 394.16 | 1209.57 |
| 8. | Fruits & Nuts extl. Cashew Nuts | — | 697.70 | — | 560.64 |
| 9. | Spices | 78.71 | 446.22 | 109.76 | 527.61 |
| 10. | Sugar | 26.56 | 32.50 | 41.27 | 32.47 |
| 11. | Oil Seeds | — | 1.35 | — | 9.99 |
| 12. | Vegetable Oils Fixed (edible) | 4045.52 | 5985.65 | 3905.61 | 7697.80 |
| 13. | Vegetables & Animal fats | 1.09 | 8.52 | 1.35 | 11.35 |
| 14. | Cotton Raw & Waste | 364.79 | 1936.29 | 184.61 | 939.44 |
| 15. | Jute | 71.89 | 85.32 | 118.23 | 109.17 |
| 16. | Tea | 9.21 | 59.70 | 22.49 | 115.31 |
| 17. | Wood & Wood Products | — | 2458.40 | — | 1715.37 |
| | Total Agricultural Exports | | 15182.80 | | 15391.02 |
| | Total National Exports | | 221170.00 | | 265424.64 |
| | % Share of Agricultural Imports in National Imports | | 6.86 | | 5.80 |

P: Provisional.

Source: DGCI&S Ministry of Commerce, Calcutta.